

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 TRSE-00 PER-01 ABF-01 SP-02 OMB-01

NSC-05 /020 R

DRAFTED BY M/MO:PEPESCE

APPROVED BY M/MO:CEMCMANAWAY

EA/EX - H. R. MILLS (DRAFT)

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R 020238Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:AODE, ETRD, HK

SUBJECT:MODE - TREASURY/CUSTOMS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN
INSPECTOR POSITION AT HONG KONG

1. TREASURY/CUSTOMS PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH AN INSPECTOR
POSITION AT HONG KONG TO MEET INCREASING OPERATIONAL
DEMANDS.

2. TREASURY/CUSTOMS JUSTIFICATION IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE.
DURING FY 76 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN
CASE LOAD IN HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH THE YEAR IS NOT YET COM-
plete WE HAVE ALREADY OPENED 86 PERCENT MORE CASES THIS
YEAR THAN LAST AND ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL HAVE A TOTAL
INCREASE IN CASE LOAD OF 175 PERCENT BY THE END OF THE
FISCAL YEAR. WE HAVE CLOSED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CASES
AS WELL--UP TO 39 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR ALREADY WITH A
PROJECTED INCREASE OF 109 PERCENT OVER THE FULL FISCAL
YEAR.

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WE PRESENTLY HAVE TWO OFFICERS WITH BACKGROUNDS EXCLUSIVELY IN OPERATIONAL MATTERS POSTED IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE AUGMENTED THE STAFF ON OCCASION WITH INVESTIGATORS FROM TAIPEI AND TOKYO. WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD THIS LUXURY DUE TO THE

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN WORK LOAD IN EACH OF THOSE OFFICES COUPLED WITH THE EXPENSE OF SUCH PROTRACTED ASSIGNMENTS.

THE HONG KONG OFFICE HAS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AREA OF JURISDICTION WHICH GENERATES A REQUIREMENT FOR EXTENSIVE TRAVEL. SPECIFICALLY THIS OFFICE COVERS THE FOLLOWING: AUSTRALIA, CEYLON, HONG KONG, MALAY ARCHIPELAGO (INCLUDING MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA), NEW ZEALAND AND ALL THE ASIAN CONTINENT EAST OF THE BORDER OF IRAN WITH THE USSR, AFGHANISTAN, AND PAKISTAN, AND NEARBY ISLANDS POLITICALLY PART OF THE USSR. MERELY BY ITS SIZE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT EXTENDED TRAVEL IS NECESSARY. SUCH TRAVEL, WHILE NECESSARY, IS ALSO TIME CONSUMING AND THEREFORE ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE OVERALL PRODUCTIVITY OF THE OFFICE.

THE INCUMBENT ASSISTSTHE SENIOR CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OVERALL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT; DEALS DIRECTLY WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND OTHER CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE AREA ADMINISTERED AS WELL AS WITH U.S. AMBASSADORS, PRINCIPAL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND HIGH RANKING U. S. ARMED FORCES OFFICERS STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT IN U.S. CUSTOMS INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES. THESE ACTIVITIES INVOLVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND CORRELATION OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF FRAUD IN THE INVOICING AND DOCUMENTATION OF ALL TYPES OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES; THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED DUMPING OF MERCHANDISE AND ALL TYPES OF PRICE FIXING COMBINATIONS RELATING TO IMPORTED MERCHANDISE; THE DETECTION OF PRODUCTION, CIRCULATION, AND SMUGGLING TO THE UNITED STATES OF COUNTERFEIT U.S. CURRENCY; THE INVESTIGATIONS OF FOREIGN OR EXPORT VALUE OR COST OF PRODUCTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE SHIPPED TO THE UNITED STATES; THE INVESTIGATION OF ALL OTHER ALLEGED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR SUSPECTED CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES ENFORCED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES. THE INCUMBENT DEVELOPS SOURCES OF INFORMATION CAPABLE OF PRODUCING EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS OF LAWS ENFORCED BY U. S. CUSTOMS AND OTHER TREASURY AGENCIES. THE INCUMBENT ESTABLISHES AND MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A BASIS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND ALSO FOR

THE PURPOSE OF REEVALUATION OF TREASURY INVESTIGATIVE POLICIES. THIS IS PERFORMED IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE POLITICAL SITUATIONS AND ATTITUDES ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING. IN ACCOMPLISHING THE FOREGOING, THE INCUMBENT IS

REQUIRED TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST TACT AND DIPLOMACY AND THE SOUNDEST OF JUDGMENT SINCE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES USUALLY ARE OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, AFFECTING IN MANY CASES, QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL POLICY AND SECURITY. INCUMBENT DEALS DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT IN CONNECTION WITH MATTERS RELATING DIRECTLY TO THE DUMPING OF MERCHANDISE; CONDUCTS CONFERENCES WITH MANUFACTURERS, EXPORTERS, AND SHIPPERS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANSWERING PERSONAL INQUIRIES ON THE CLASSIFICATION AND APPRAISEMENT OF MERCHANDISE TO BE ENTERED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH AND FILL THIS POSITION AS SOON AS AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO IS GIVEN. WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY BASIS FOR DISESTABLISHING THE POSITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE BASIS FOR THE POSITION'S CREATION WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AND WITH TIME WILL PROBABLY GROW.

IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL BE REQUIRED. THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF THE SENIOR CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER. THE INCUMBENT OF THE POSITION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE BUT WILL HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC STATUS OR TITLE.

IT SHOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG IS CONSULTED ON THIS MATTER, IT WILL AGREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE PROPOSED ACTION. THIS IS PRESUMED SINCE THE ASSIGNMENT WILL INSURE BETTER SERVICE TO MERCHANTS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN INQUIRIES IN THIS REGARD AND WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHO NEED TO DEAL WITH U.S. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

THE SENIOR CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG, MR. VICTOR RENAGHAN, HAS ADVISED THAT THIS MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, MR. CROSS, WHO IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSAL AND WHO IN FACT HAS LENT SUBSTANTIAL IMPETUS TO THE MATTER. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT IN RECENT MODE REVIEW AND VERIFICATION OF MISSION STAFFING DATED 9 JULY 76 (HONG KONG 8095) COM INDICATED NO RECOMMENDATION FOR INCREASING STAFF FOR CUSTOMS-TREASURY UNIT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF COM CONCERNING NEED FOR REQUESTED INCREASE, INCLUDING EXPECTED IMPACT ON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES OF THE MISSION. IF APPROVED, THE TREASURY/CUSTOMS AUTHORIZED POSITION CEILING WOULD BE 3 US AND 2 FN. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, INSPECTIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE217465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PEPESCE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0293
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760996/aaaadetg.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN MMO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE - TREASURY/CUSTOMS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INSPECTOR POSITION AT HONG KONG
TAGS: AODE, ETRD, HK
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006